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tachment, the kitten parted with its waving testimonial of regard, the squirrel laid down his beautiful but useless appendage, the peacock was shorn of its splendid iridescent fan, and all the beasts and birds appeared in a tailless uniform. But very soon they found that a great mistake had been committed. When all were reduced to a uniform level of ugliness, they began to regret the things of beauty and of use so hastily parted with. A new convention was called, and, by a unanimous vote, the lost tails were restored, and the whole race of animals was happy once again. This fable teaches that the radical lopping off of fancied superfluities is not always permanent reform.

BOOK NOTICE.

Hindu Literature; or the Ancient Books of India. By Elizabeth A. Reed. Chicago, 1891. S. C. Griggs & Co.

One has only to look at a collection of works on the Oriental religions to become thoroughly discouraged from attempting to read them. If he has not one hundred years at his disposal he had better not attempt to master the whole subject. In a volume of four hundred pages Mrs. Reed has undertaken to give a brief synopsis of the great Indian Epics in a popular and attractive form, and her volume will be read with great interest.

DEATH OF JOHN G. OWENS.—Mr. J. G. Owens, of Lewisburg, Pa., recently died of yellow fever in Honduras, where he was exploring the ancient ruins and making archeological collections for the Columbian Exposition. Mr. Owens held for two years the Hemenway Fellowship at Harvard University.

THE BRINTON LECTURES.—Five lectures on anthropology were delivered by Dr. J. G. Brinton at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, in February and March. The special subjects were: "The Bonds of Social Life," "The Growth of the Arts," "The Progress of Religions," "Language and Literature," and "Folk Lore, or the Past in the Present."